

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

4:30 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Safety

Robert Palmosina, Chair; Tom Baker, Sam DeMarco, Paul Klein, Bob Macey, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton, Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)

Matthew Brown, Chief, Allegheny County Emergency Services

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Mr. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - DeWitt Walton and Robert Palmosina

Members Absent: 5 - Tom Baker, Sam DeMarco, Paul Klein, Bob Macey and Denise Ranalli-Russell

Members 1 - Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes**IV. Agenda Items****Ordinances**

[10535-18](#) An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the County's acceptance of one (1) drone for use by the Allegheny County Fire Marshal's Office in fire and explosion investigations and by the Allegheny County Emergency Management Agency in emergency and disaster response, when necessary.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain provided a brief summary of the bill, noting that the drone in question is being donated at no cost to the County, but that the cost of the drone is being provided by a third party insurance fraud group. Mr. McKain noted that the drone will be used in a variety of circumstances in which an aerial view is required, and indicated that the video shot by the drone would be kept stored on digital media, and that operation of the drone would be undertaken in accordance with FAA flight and training requirements.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that the County already has one drone, but that training would be provided by the donor to County personnel who would be piloting the drone.

The Chair and Mr. Walton expressed support for the proposed donation.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain discussed the County's insurance and noted that the drone's value is just over \$12,000, with an annual maintenance cost of about \$1,300 per year. Mr. McKain indicated that he would look into how many people would be trained to operate the drone, as well as the approximate size of the drone at

issue. Mr. McKain also noted that he would have to check into specifics of the drone's operational parameters, but that the County's experience with its current drone has been positive.

A motion was made by Walton, seconded by Palmosina, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39.